

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 041144Z MAR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1687

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0228

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR IZ SY

SUBJ: BAATH NATIONAL LEADERSHIP VIOLENTLY ATTACKS SYRIA

1. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF ARAB BAATHSOCIALIST PARTY (AS
DISTINCT FROM REGIONAL (IRAQI) LEADERSHIP) ISSUED LONG
STATEMENT MAR 2 WHICH IS MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND EXTREME
DENUNCIATION OF SYRIAN REGIME TO HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED
HERE IN SEVERAL YEARS. SIGNIFICANT EXCERPTS FOLLOW
(ASSUME TEXT IN FBIS):

2. ZIONIST-AMERICAN COALITION AND ALL OTHERS INVOLVED
IN CAPITULATIONIST SCHEMINGS HAVE AVOWED PURPOSE OF LIQUIDATING
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PALESTINE ISSUE AND EXTENDING RECOGNITION TO ZIONIST ENEMY.

CAPITULATIONIST REGIMES HAVE BEEN DECEIVING THE PEOPLE.

3. SYRIAN REGIME OF FEB 23, 1966 WAS ONE THAT MADE GREAT USE OF METHODS OF DECEIT AND FRAUD BECAUSE IT KNEW THAT ARAB MASSES IN SYRIA ARE ENDOWED WITH HIGHEST DEGREE OF MATURITY AND EXPERIENCE AND CONSTITUTED BASIC MATERIAL FOR NATIONALIST STRUGGLE MOUNTED BY ARAB BAATH SOCIALIST PARTY FOR MORE THAN A THIRD OF A CENTURY ON BEHALF OF PALESTINE, UNITY AND LIBERATION. MASK OF THAT REGIME WAS STRIPPED OFF WHEN IN JUN 1976 IT GAVE UP GOLAN WITHOUT A FIGHT, ANNOUNCED FALL OF QUNEITRA BEFORE IT WAS ACTUALLY OCCUPIED, AND ITS LEADERSHIP FLED FROM DAMASCUS LEAVING COUNTRY IN TERRIBLE STATE OF HUMILIATION. THE REGIME FLUNG DOORS WIDE OPEN TO INFLUENCE OF REACTIONARY REGIMES AND CLIMATE WAS REDUCED TO CLIMATE OF ROTTENNESS WHERE CORRUPTION REIGNS SUPREME.

4. UNTIL 1972 SYRIAN REGIME CONCEALED ITSELF BEHIND PRETENSE OF OBJECTING TO RESOLUTION 242 WHILE ASSIGNING OTHERS TO NEGOTIATE ON ITS BEHALF. THE SAME PATTERN WAS REPEATED AFTER OCT WAR. SYRIAN REGIME PRETENDED TO OBJECT TO CEASEFIRE, THEN ACCEPTED IT; ENTERED INTO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS AND GAVE HERO'S WELCOME TO AMERICAN PRESIDENT. RULERS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN AMERICAN IMPERIALISTIC SCHEME WERE ALSO RECEIVED IN DAMASCUS. THEN CAME RECENT STATEMENT MADE TO NEWSWEEK WHERE SYRIAN REGIME, SPEAKING THROUGH ITS CHIEF, ANNOUNCED ITS PREPAREDNESS TO CONCLUDE TREATY OF PEACE WITH ZIONIST ENTITY AND TO DEMILITARIZE GOLAN HEIGHTS RELINQUISHING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THAT AREA.

5. SYRIAN REGIME STUBBORNLY PERSISTED IN ITS REJECTION OF INITIATIVES TAKEN BY IRAQ FOR SAKE OF UNITY BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ. INSTEAD IT PREFERRED TO STRETCH OUT A HAND TO THE ENEMY AS WAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED IN DECLARATION MADE BY SYRIAN HEAD OF STATE WHICH WON AN IMMEDIATE FAVORABLE COMMENT FROM THE U S SECRETARY OF STATE WHO EXPRESSED HIGH SATISFACTION AND APPRECIATION. HAFEZ AL-ASSAD'S STATEMENT TO AMERICAN MAGAZINE SHEDS FULL LIGHT ON UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL THE ATTITUDES ASSUMED BY SYRIAN REGIME FROM FEB 23, 1966 TO CLIMB TO POWER AT ANY COST. CONSENTING TO NEGOTIATE WITH ENEMY AND READINESS TO CONCLUDE A PEACE TREATY IN RETURN FOR PULLING OUT FROM GOLAN, AMOUNTS, IN FINAL ANALYSIS, TO REDUCING NATIONALIST ISSUE TO A STRIP OF LAND, PAWNING FUTURE OF ARAB NATIONS WITH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IN RETURN FOR REMAINING IN POWER.

6. LONG LIVE UNITY OF FORCES THAT REJECT CAPITULATIONIST FORMULA. DOWN WITH DESPICABLE EFFORTS MADE TO SACRIFICE ARAB ISSUE OF DESTINY IN PALESTINE AND THE ARAB GULF. END EXCERPTS.

7. COMMENT: FIRST ATTACKS ON SYRIA APPEARED IN ATH-THAWRA AND AL-JUMHURIYA EDITORIALS OF FEB 23 COMMEMORATING "COUNTER-REVOLUTION" IN SYRIA OF 1966, BUT THEY WERE CONSIDERABLY MILDERTHAN ABOVE STATEMENT. THEY WERE THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY STATEMENT IN TEHRAN BY ZUHEIR MOHSEN, LEADER OF SYRIAN SPONSORED FEDAYEEN GROUP SAIQAH, WHICH REPORTEDLY STRONGLY CRITICIZED IRAQ'S KURDISH POLICY. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP STATEMENT HAS BEEN ACCCOMPANIED BY BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS ALLEGING DIRECT SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR KURDS.

8. FOR TEHRAN: REQ GIST OF MOHSEN ALLEGED STATEMENT.

9. FURTHER COMMENT BY SEPTEL.
LOWRIE

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